14th March 1929]

Hydro-Electric Developments

Expenditure on the Pykara scheme.

*1725 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. Swami: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount spent on the Pykara scheme up till the time for which accounts are available;

(*b*) how much more has to be spent before the scheme is completed as at present known;

(*c*) what the percentage of expected return is;

(*d*) what the original amount estimated for is; and

(*e*) what the same is after the estimate was revised by Mr. Howard?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) No expenditure has been incurred so far on the Pykara Hydro-electric scheme.

(*c*), (*d*) & (*e*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 92 at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 4th September 1928. Since then, the Chief Engineer, Hydro-Electric Development, has revised his proposals and has submitted estimates for three alternative schemes—(*a*), (*c*) and (*d*)—taking into account varying demands for power. The estimated cost of the three schemes and the returns expected from them are as follows:—

—	Scheme (*a*)	Scheme (*c*)	Scheme (*d*)
	RS.	RS.	RS.
Capital cost during first year of operation ..	2,19,82,300	1,20,12,840	1,76,69,910
Capital cost during tenth year	3,20,75,200	1,32,97,350	1,93,37,450
Return on the sum charge at the end of ten years ..	8·75 per cent.	6·33 per cent.	6·46 per cent.

Excise

Steps taken to reduce the consumption of opium.

*1726 Q.—Mr. C. Gopala Menon: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the districts in which the consumption of opium is in excess of the standard of six seers per 10,000 inhabitants laid down by the League of Nations;

(*b*) whether any steps are being taken to reduce the consumption and if so, what they are;

(*c*) whether it is proposed to set up committees to investigate the causes of the high consumption of opium;

(*d*) what orders have been passed on the report of the Committee appointed to investigate the causes of the high consumption of opium in the East Godavari district;

(*e*) whether they have considered the raising of the retail selling price as one of the measures calculated to put a check on increased consumption; and